

STATINTL

No Quick Break Seen in

WASHINGTON: It is generally agreed here that things are going to get a lot worse in Cuba, from the U. S. point of view, before they get better. If they get better.

Despite the journalistic scuttlebutt, we had—and continue to have—excellent intelligence in Cuba.

"If we didn't know exactly what was going on in a place 90 miles from our shores we ought to go out of business," a CIA man puts it.

A dark picture has been evaluated from the information coming out of Castro's island fortress, where the dawn comes up like thunder from Red China (as well as Russia) 'cross the bay:

• More than 200 Cubans, many of them long since checked out on T-33 jet trainers, are expected to finish their training in and on MIG-15's and perhaps supersonic MIG-17s in Czechoslovakia by the end of June. The Soviet-built planes are being shipped into Havana, crated, and



CONSIDINE

Readers will find Bob Considine's daily column, "On the Ground in Cuba," in the Journal-American Monday through Friday.

Considine's column is in trouble.

There isn't a single Latin American leader who has not told us privately that he considers Castro a dangerous Communist stooge. But few, if any, of them will come right out and say it for publication. They know how easy it is to be toppled out of power and they know how strong their own Fidelistas are. This hemisphere is in trouble.

He's built a lot of schools, raised salaries—even though he has trouble paying them—and done a lot of other crowd-pleasing things. A move against him would be interpreted by millions as an attack on his reforms. People with nothing will take any kind of reform. Ideology doesn't matter.

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One official who cannot be named told this reporter: "We've simply got to wait this one out and not expect any miracles in the near future. Some of us forget that Castro has instituted reforms that even a most conservative successor would have to copy. The breaking up of the big estates, for example, and the lowering of rents and costs of various services.

in operation immediately after the flight of pilots and ground crewmen.

• The presence of a Cuban bomber force capable of striking the will of the Organization of American States to take an open stand.

• The fall of the number of more than 100,000 acceptance ranks to speak much more than ever gained the State the very day the State

Considine

Red Clouds Over Cuba